FASHION'S FOIBLES

Some of the Latest Fads That Appeal to Women.

POPULARITY OF NECK BANDS

Rhinestones and Violets the Rage of the Day.

SOME DAINTY COSTUMES



ONG CHAINS ARE out, chatelaine watches are going, fob chains are in! A pretty girl said so, and she knows, for the wouldn't be a minute behind in adopting a fashion for anything on earth. She stood with her hands on ner hips, as she imparted this wonderful piece of informa-

her wide collar of cream crepe silk came of her hair on her patrician head, making her look comically dignified, and on a less charming girl would have been almost Candor compels a disinterested person

to confess that the late fad in collars is not pretty. It was the Princess of Wales who set the pace with it. For years and years she wore the "dog collar" of black velvet, which bade fair to strangle womankind before it died out a little, and now comes the crush collar, and the collar ef jewels, worn first by the princess. At the same time, court etiquette requires that her shoulders show. The result as seen over here is appalling! It is now the thing to let your gown slip just as far off your shoulders as you dare, but you must muffle up your throat.

Popularity of Neck Bands.

At some of the recent receptions in official life the bands of red velvet twisted about fair necks would have suggested innumerable sore throats and kerosene and flannel, if it had not been that the velvet was sewn with precious stones. It is not a pretty fashion, and it will soon go out, for all but the dowagers with double chins and the wrinkle about the neck that comes one for every ten years of one's age after twenty-five. If the neck is fit to be bared at all, it needs no banding of jewels or harness of velvet to enhance its beauty. There is something incongruous about a toilet where the shoulders are bared and the throat has a yard of dry goods tied about it. The debutante sensibly refuses to adopt the muffler, but wears instead a dainty pendant, such as a pansy with a example. It runs extravagantly to breadth of shoulders, caused by the wide, spreaddiamond heart, or a ruby heart with a judge mbroidered bands, from under which golden arrow piercing it. Another pretty wide lace stands out. In effect it is the pendant is a cluster of forget-me-nots in blue enamel, or dead gold set with turquoises, to represent the lover's flower. As a gage d'amour these forget-me-nots are quite the favorites, and come in lockets, pendants, rings and pins.

Rhinestones and Silver.

Just now there is a perfect craze for cembs are set with them, and the knot at the top of beauty's head has a dagger with a hilt incrusted with them. From there down to the toe of the pointed slipper every buckle and pin, in sight and out, is set with the imitation diamond. Even the hook on the bit of a satin girdle, called by courtesy a corset, has a gem set on its top, and the silk stockings that accompany elaborate tea gowns have rare lace insertion set in the instep, and this lace is spangled with jewels! They are "only imitation," but they cost a lot.

Silver grows in favor in my lady's estimation, as well as in Congress. In fact, it looks as though the women might be able to solve the question of utilizing the silver output of the world, if they are only stimulated a little. The woman who vannot afford to carry around three or four pounds of silver is not doing her duty. It enters into her hairpins, buckles, card case, pocket book, lorgnette, opera glasses, langling chains and bon boxes, umbrella handles, bag and bundle markers-in fact, there is scarcely an article of attire into which a woman does not intro me silver. It isn't an extravagant idea, either. Silver never wears out and never goes entirely out of fashion, and gathers beauty and value with age if its orkmanship is of a high order. Mrs. Cleveland has given a new impetus to the scent bottle fever. She carries with her at all her receptions the silver and crystal bottle that was given her in Philadelphia when she went to christen the big warship; it is set with a beautiful diamond of purest water, and is a thing of beauty. quite the thing to carry one of the tiny bottles shoved up the palm of the

Violet Craze. "Voylets," as the venders term them, are fairly making the air purple from reflecting the Napoleonic favorite. "Sweet violets" are as omnipresent as rhinestones. Whole bonnets are made of the French confections by sewing the single flowers thickly over a shape, and a bridle of singly twisted violets passes under the chin. For the tiny opera bonnet two bunches are affixed over each temple to a slender band the wife of the Chinese minister wears he curious collection of artificials, and the back of the frivol is fastened by a big bow of ribbon. The bow is not quite as big as a Gainesborough hat, but as it comes ex-actly in the range of vision of the one just behind this bow might just as well bandbox, for it shuts off the stage effectually. Another use of the violet is to fasten bunches of them as close together as possible on a ribbon, and wear them about the neck, with both high and decollete corsages. At the diplomatic reception at the White House one of the guests wore a black velvet frock, with the low corsage outlined with a rope of violets, and another edged the foot of the short skirt. Another wore a white satin, and the seams were outlined from waist to hem with a double row of violets. If you would be quite swell you must display somewhere about you a bunch of violets-and they need not always be fresh ones! In other words, artificial violets at 10 cents for six dozen are considerably cheaper than 60 cents for one dozen of frail earth-grown ones, and so the pretty fad will soon get so common as to kill itself.



"Some in rags, and some in tags, and some in velvet gowns," is the way the old | the city. Jingle ran. It runs the same way now, only that the velvet is more common. For a study in black and white, a gown of black velvet striped with white satin is extremely elegant. It has the glove-fitting corsage, the very latest in bodices, and has I natural sources.

an odd little pannier effect that is particularly becoming to slender people. The last picture taken of the cabinet women GIRLS AND CLOTHES extravagance. A soiled light glove is unpardonable under any circumstances. The only heavy of a light glove is its freely represents Miss Herbert in a pannier gown, shepherdess. Another gown in which Miss Herbert looks remarkably well has ermine straps over the low shoulders.



With Ermine Straps. Something after the fashion of others is this one, which has a black velvet skirt, with a band of ermine at the foot, and one of the pretty pink silk bodices with big puffed tion to a representative of The Star, and sleeves, and the shoulders outlined with straps of ermine. The band about the neck high enough to touch the Bath bun knob and the beit are of strands of Roman pearl beads, adjusted on a white satin ribbon. This same gown can be fashioned out of some of the dainty cheap silks, and roseplaited ribbon substituted for the ermine



For a sumptuous velvet gown, in rich violet shades that run into gold in certain lights, this pearl-festooned robe is a fine ance. Velvet is much worn for both gowns and wraps, and if properly made, and not too much ornamented, nothing handsomer can be imagined. It is so much cheaper now than it was a few years back that it is not such an extravagance, either.

It is muttered that the hoop is about to heavy with crinoline that they are a burden to carry, flopping around the legs. and from running whalebones in the botoms of the gowns to fastening them on tapes by themselves is a short step. But, then, the boned skirts are graceful, and the hoop skirts are exactly the opposite, so it is to be hoped that the heavy skirt will be abandoned, and then we shall

SMALLPOX IN A STREET CAR. If No Empty Seat Offers, Here is

Way to Secure One. The car was pretty full. So likewise was the gentleman in the corner at the driver's end. His hat was pulled down over his eyes and his coat collar turned up, so that his features were not visible at all. But now and then a smothered hiccough seemed to indicate that he was not asleep, but only thinking.

Every other seat in the vehicle was oc cupied. On the opposite side were eight women. Under the last administration there would have been room for nine, but the balloon sleeves which came in with Mr. Cleveland have reduced the capacity of the street cars. The person with the hiccoughs was the only male passenger, and he made no motion to get up when two ladies of color entered at a cross street. They looked around for a place to sit down. There was nobody to give a seat to the

wo ladies of color already mentioned. So they availed themselves of a couple of hanging straps and discoursed on a variety of topics as the car went on its way down-

"Only fifteen cents a va'd, did you say? remarked Number One, who wore a green "Fifteen cents," assented Number Two. 'Wasn't it a barging?"
"Well; I should say. And how are you

going to have it cut?

"Wid a yoke, an' the biggest sleeves I can get a pattern fer." "Three pleats in de skirt, I s'pose?" "Three pleats. Lined wid hair cloth, of

"I dessay I'll see you in it at Mrs. Washin'ton's pahty next Monday evenin'. I'm gwine to wear my white silk wid sky-blue

ribbings."
"You don't say?" "Yes, indeedy. I'm a-goin' to sing, you

"At Mrs. Washin'ton's?"
"Yes, indeedy. You know it's goin' to be musical swarry. "I knowed that, but-oh, 'scuse me! That was an awful jerk. I do wish we could git

a chance to sit." "So do I. I ain't got quite strong after my illness. "I didn't know you'd been sick." "Yes, indeedy. I only left the hospital

"The hospital!" "Yes, indeedy. Smallpox."

"You've been havin' smallpox?"
"Eh, heh. Had it awful bad. I don't feel mite well yet." Several of the other passengers had been listening apparently to this conversation, and at the first mention of smallpox they whispered to a young girl, presumably her daughter, and the two rather hurriedly left the car at the next corner. Within two or three minutes they were followed by all of the others, save only the person in the corner with the turned-up coilar and hat pulled over his eyes. He hiccoughed once or twice to show that he was still merely thinking and not asleep. Meanwhile the two ladies of color had seated themselves, and it was observable that the one in the green bonnet were an expansive smile. "I ain't been vaccinated," remarked her

empanion nervously. "Nor me either," replied the other. "But I'se afraid." "Afraid of what?" "I'se afraid youse contagious."

"Oh, chile, don't you be skeered," said she of the green bonnet, "I ain't had no "You ain't had it! Then whuffo' did you

say so?"
"Just 'cause I was tired. I wanted to sit. Any time you can't get a seat in a horse car these days, all you have to do is to mention smallpox, and you'll soon have plenty of room. Yah, yah!" The humor of this idea evidently struck the second lady of color very strongly, for she became so convulsed with laughter that her friend in the green bonnet offered a bottle of smelling salts to revive her. But the over-stimulated person in the corner paid no attention, merely uttering a smothered hiccough at Intervals, while sued its way into the shopping quarter of

FOR WEAK NERVES Use Horsford's Acid Phosphate. It is particularly useful in making weak nerves strong, as it contains necessary elements of nu-trition for the nervous system, obtained from

Be Avoided.

RESOURCES OF A SLENDER PURSE

Useful Suggestions About Choice matter what the color of your gown, whether white, black or bright in hue, the prettiest glove is a fine black suede. A pair that costs \$2 will last you a year for and Care of Clothes.

TO BE WELL DRESSED

Written Exclusively for The Evening Star.



ELL ME HOW TO dress on nothing a year, and I'll manage to get along," was the half angry response a little friend of mine made to my restrictions and remonstrances, when she gleefully displayed her elegant new hat, which, though bought at a

bargain, was utterly

out of keeping with her other raiment, actually shaming her shabby shoes and mended gloves, to say nothing of her one street gown, now in its second season, and woefully out of date, because, for sooth, when she got it, it was the very latest thing out, loud and costly. The demand for that kind of goods was short lived, and she was out of style before the season ended.

Of course, one can't dress "on nothing a year," but I know very well that more that is bright and beautiful, just because they are poor. Of course not! And it is that she might in time have all that she wanted that led me to give her a word of son. These women never buy the latest in dress materials, because the newest thing always costs about a third more in the be-ginning of the season than at the end. They never, under any circumstances, buy a loud pattern, or an ultra fashionable garment, because they know that when the same is commonly sold and gets cheap that well-dressed women who have more money to spend than they know what to do with love for light and bright colors. And light and bright colored clothes are expensive investments, first and last. The girl who has to count the pennies

sensible, indeed, if she confines her gowns and wraps to black, or dark blue or brown. I rather think I will except the brown, also, save for gowns, and to them she might add dark green if she likes it. Why? Oh, there are so many reasons. In the first place, dark colors do not soil as easily as light ones; they are less apt to be affected by change of fashion than light ones; better fabries for less money can be bought in dark colors, and a gown or coat of some good dark color never becomes common or noticeable, as light ones

red one. At the end of the winter the red gown will be faded in streaks, its freshness will be gone beyond repair from soil at the bottom, and it will be grimy with dust and probably spotted from rain The black gown will be in the same con-dition, but it will not show half as much, and a vigorous cleaning and dusting, with a slight readjustment of trimming, will put it back as neat as it was before, and this can be done until it is actually worn full of holes. Even dark and dark brown will endure pretty hard treatment, not as well as black. The girl who has the black dress can wear with it any color of velvet, silk or satin that she likes, in the shape of an extra pair of sleeves for a party, a belt, knots for her shoulders, hair, and fan, a bertha or bretelles, and a sash. She can wear white lace garniture and pink velvet one evening and black lace and erise satin another, with black velvet and white lace, or the black velvet and black lace at other times, or she can have two or three pretty bodices, which will freshen her dress wonderfully. The girl with the red dress has only black velvet and black and white lace, and possibly two shades of red that she can wear with her red dress, and people soon begin to say of her that she has worn that dress for a cen-Because, you know, red catches tury. teases the eyes, particularly it and it is not quite harmonious in all its de-tails, whereas black is restful, and there is no color or shade that will not combine with it nicely, though I would except the French fancy for brown and black in combination. It is not artistic, and it is woefully trying. Of course a dark blue wool

is almost as accommodating, but brown and green are less so, because those colors are hard to get, impervious to mud spots and rain drops.

The girl who has but little money to spend on clothes is doing a very foolish thing when she buys a light-colored coat or wrap. Light wraps always cost more than dark ones, because better material must be used to make them presentable. Then a light coat soils at a breath. Dust, rain, grease spots, every little thing shows up on the light coat, just as it does on a

light gown, and one season renders the coat unfit for vear. Successful Economies.

Of course, such things can be cleaned, but not always successfully, and a garment once cleaned soils just as fast again. If you get a good dark blue or black coat there is always a chance to match the material with cloth like itself or with velvet in case there is a decided change in style the second season, and you can make it look quite new. If the coat is light, your one-time friend will be very apt to say to you the first time she gets you in a crowd, 'You didn't get a new coat this season, did you, dear?" but if the coat is dark nobody will remember that you got it at a"marked down" sale the season before. A fresh light coat will shame a worn dress and make a mended pair of gloves look shab-bier than ever, when a neat black coat will not call attention to either. With a light coat the hat must be fresh and the latest thing out, or you will look ancient. If the hat is bright velvet or much trimmed your neck arrangements and veil gloves must be neat and stylish, and that will make the contrast to a shabby gown greater than ever. A good rule to follow in the purchase of street gowns and wraps is to buy only dark ones and never any thing ultra in style.
Gloves and shoes are a big item to

woman who has small means. I believe that the best will always be found to be the cheapest. The misery of "breaking" them is less frequent, besides that a well made shoe is never as hard to get to fit A good shoe is always well worth mending. A paste patch that can never be seen makes the worn side as good as new again. The button holes and eyelets on good shoes last much better, and when the sole gets thin a light half sole makes ex-

cellent walking boots of them. Two pairs of good walking boots, well taken care of, with one pair of low shoes for summer wear, ought to last a woman a year, unless she does an enormous amount of walking. A woman who has to be careful of her money will never look the second time at a pair of tan shoes. No well-gowned woman would think of wearing tan shoes for a dress shoe, and the only use for them is for business or co ptry wear, and they must never, under any circumstances, be worn on ceremonious occasions. You might as well go to a luncheon in decollete corsage, and the woman who would wear a tan shoe at an evening reception would probably be guilty of eating ple with her knife. Of course, good whisky," remarked Col. Blugore to tan or light shoes that are of the same the visiting northerner. material as the dress may be worn at any industries in the dress may be worn at any industries. But you do get away with a good deal time, but it is not to be supposed that a of it, you know," said the northern gentlewoman of moderate means can afford to man have her shoes made to match her gowns. "So

The Cheapest and the Best. Very light gloves for a girl who has to deny herself luxuries are an unnecessary in that."

only beauty of a light glove is its freshness, for it makes the hands look undeniably large. There are a few makes of Why the Cheap and Tawdry Should cheap gloves that it will pay to buy for everyday business wear, but for more ceremonious wear a good glove will give better service and more satisfaction, because a good glove always fits well. If light gloves are your choice, get white ones, for they are more easily cleaned and are not liable to be rotted, as coloring rots the cheap kid. For evening wear, no

> evening wear alone, and will look well to the very last. A girl who has a particle of ingenuity can make most of her own hats and lonnets, and that item will be a very small one after a time. My advice in getting materials is to get the best at the start not the costliest, but the most durable. In the case of ostrich tips, for instance, good ones cost more, but they last five times as long. Wear a cheap tip on a damp day and it is hopelessly ruined. A good one may lose a little of its curl, but holding it close to a hot stove immediately on coming in will restore its fluffiness, and it can be recurled for four or five seasons at small cost.

Jet trimmings never go out of style. never buy cheap jet, but wait till you can get the riveted ornaments, and if you are moderately careful they will last you for years. Good satin ribbons can be colored for a small sum, and are practically inde-structible. Good silk velvet will retrim headgear for several seasons. A fine felt hat, one of the flats that have been worn for a dozen years now, with practically no change in shape, will wear indefinitely if you get a good dark shade. Good lace never wears out, unless you snag or mistreat it purposely. Artificial flowers are so cheap that, with a dent in a different place, a last new curl to the brim, a stylish adjustment of the trimmings and a fresh new flower or a crisply curled tip, your hats need cost you only a dollar or two each year. It is worth your while to study over this.

Have a House Dress.

A girl who wishes to be well dressed on the street and at her office or in the judicious buying would make a small store gets out of her street gown the mostipend go much further than it usually | ment she enters her home. Nothing so does go in the hands of working girls. My demoralizes a street gown as to wear it little friend asked me almost tearfully if in the house. The seams of the waist get working girls must deny themselves all pulled out of shape, the skirt wrinkles with lolling in easy chairs and the woolen gown will take on all the odors that are floating up from the kitchen, so that the minute you enter a car or shop the other inmates can tell you that you had sausage warning. Working girls are not the only ones that should economize, or that do, in buying clothes. There are thousands of well to do women who buy their clothes with extreme care and the idea always in view that they must serve a second search or contour crepon. Make them neatly and fancifully if you like, for at home is cale or cotton crepon. Make them neatly and fancifully if you like, for at home is where you have a right to look your pret tiest.

You can color and combine wornout street gowns for the purpose of making pretty house gowns, but, as you love the admiration of your friends, don't attempt well-dressed women who have more money to spend than they know what to do with are going to discard it, or give it to their maids. A common fault with all girls is a love for light and bright colors. And light shoes or slippers to put on, and they will rest your feet, and save your street shoes. The moisture from your feet will rot leather, and house, wear is as hard on shoes as it is on gowns. You twist and shuffle your feet around on the carpets and the hassocks and chair rounds, rubbing the leather rough, straining the but-ton holes and pulling the buttons off. The dry heat of the house and the habit of sit-ting to toast your feet are extremely hard on shoe leather.

After getting good clothes, the art of

keeping them so should be the next care. That trite old saying that "a stitch in time saves nine" has lost no strength, and it is absolutely true. The timely stitch will go The Useful Black.
Select two girls and dress them, one in a skirt becomes a rent if you neglect it: the tiny snag a big hole if you forget to darn

Gloves without buttons get out of shape; with ripped fingers look slovenly. A moment's attention at the proper time would have preserved them for much longer wearing. The tiny grease spot on the front of a gown would yield instantly to the cleaning process, if applied before dust has a chance to settle in it. But it spreads and spreads with neglect, finally defacing the dress hopelessly. A clothes-brush briskly applied on removing a heavy street gown or coat would make them quite again, but thrown over a chair, on a couch or negligently dropped just where removed, the dust grinds into the fabric, and the impalpable grease in the tiny particles settles tenaciously on the garments, which along with the wrinkles soon ruins them. The careful girl and the one who desires her gowns and wraps carefully away on up the tips and flowers, and puts it away in a closed box, where no dust can settle on it, and straightens her gloves out in their box as soon as she removes them, thus rendering it impossible for them to dry in an ugly shape. If her shoes are damp or muddy she rubs them at once with a cloth to get the mud off, then dampens the cloth with coal oil and rubs them vigorously with that, which will leave them soft and pliable when dry.

Now don't groan and say this all takes a lot of time. Eating and sleeping and working take a lot of time, too, but these things all have to be done. If you don't take time to keep yourself neat and clean, expend in thought about how you shall clothe yourself economically prettily, you will have to take more time to work, less time to eat and to sleep, and the same time deny yourself pleasures, earning more money to pay for your neglect of the first ethics of e SENORA SARA.

Sorry She Wasn't a Man

Paris Letter to London Telegraph. There has been for some time languishing in the Paris police depot a young married woman from Bordeaux, who has a mania for appearing in public dressed as a man. She was not satisfied with the pantaloons, cutaway jackets, standup collars and knickerbockers patronized by lady bicyclists, but assumed complete masculine at-tire and walked about as a beau male. Some weeks since she clandestinely entered a shop on the Boulevard Bonne Nouville, hid herself under a counter, and, in the natural order of things, was arrested as a burglar. It appears that on the occasion she had discarded some of her clothing, keeping her pantaloons, but divesting her-self of her hat and gilet. When arrested she gave the name of Georges Wilhot, and refused to impart any information about Her husband, a manufacturer, has since claimed his erring spouse, who has already given him a good deal of trouble, owing to her extraordinary objections to retain the proper garments of her sex.

Written for The Evening Star. The Poet Heart. With tightened strings, a violin Beside an organ idly lain, As the grand music sank and grew Answered in echo sweet, and true, The poet heart stirs with the breath

Of Love and Shame, of Hope and Death, And echoes, in his chargeful rhyme, The mighty peal of passing Time. H. M. WOOD.

Formal Protest.

From the Chicago Tribune. Day after day the little boy had gone to the post office and found box No. 67 empty, while the boxes on either side of it were always full. One morning he went around to the side window and called out to the postmaster:

"Say, Mr. Leeper."
"Well, Johnny," said the postmaster. "My paw voted fur Cleveland. Did you know that?"

"I presume he did, Johnny."
"Well, I'm goin' to write to Mr. Cleveland an' tell him you've give my paw a box that hain't never got no letters in

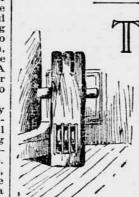
An Unsolved Problem. From the Cincinnati Tribune.

"I don't see why you fellows are etunnelly making fun of ouah people drinking

"Suttinly we do, suh. And we go to chu'ch, suh. And we cat ouah meals three times a day, suh. But youah little pennya-linehs don't seem to see anything funny

CONSTITUTION.

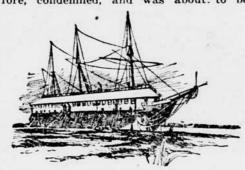
S. G. W. BENJAMIN IN ST. NICHOLAS.



THE FAMOUS FRIgate Constitution often known as Old Ironsides, was launched September 20, 1797, and she therefore lacks only two years of being a century old. She is the most famous ship in the history of the United States, and in her renown

line-of-battle ship Victory, Lord Nelson's flagship at the battle of Trafalgar. She has been, indeed, what is called a lucky ship. She never lost a battle, she never fell into the hands of the enemy, and she never was disabled by a storm. Many narrow escapes she has had in her long and prosperous career, and she has come triumphant out of all her adventures. Like the Constitution of the United States, after which she was named, she has withstood every danger that threatened, and is a fitting type of the ship of state.

Of course, during her seventy-five years of active service the Constitution often needed to be repaired. But although the material in her has been often replaced, she always continued the same ship, just as the human body is the same body of the same person, though its substance is constantly changing. In 1830 it was decided that the good frigate Constitution would hardly warrant the cost of repairs, especially when the nature of modern naval warfare was considered. She was, therefore, condemned, and was about to be



Constitution in Navy Yard at Ports mouth.

shamed Congress, and it was decided to repair once more the old warship. She took several cruises after that, and congress are repaired and incomplete the control of the c broken up, when Oliver Wendell Holmes took several cruises after that, and once carried a load of wheat to the starving peor of Ireland. On that voyage she went ashore, and, being old, there was every reason why she should have left her bones on the coast; but, with her usual good luck, the Constitution got off without serious damage and returned to her native land

But a day came at last when no further repairs would avail, and a government which pays little for sentiment would spend nothing to keep up a ship which had contributed so much to the glory of our shipbuilders, of our brave seamen and of our starry flag. The Constitution, leaky and dismantled, was lying at the Brooklyn navy yard awaiting her doom.

was decided to lay the old Constitution by the side of a row of disabled hulks. among them the British frigate Macedo nian, which was captured by the frigate United States eighty-three years ago. They lie in a line called "Rotten Row" at the navy yard of Portsmouth, New Hampd and deere in a hospital waiting, forgotten, for their last hour while the busy world rolls on. The old ship was in too crazy a condi tion to go around under canvas, even if she had had the necessary spars and sails. She was leaking two feet a day while simply lying at the wharf in the Brooklyn navy yard. She was, therefore, to be tow-ed to Portsmouth in the windy month of



Rebuilding of Constitution in 1844. October. But whether she would ever get there at all was considered sufficiently urge me to decline the cordial invitation which I had received to go in the ship on her last voyage. To make the matter still more doubtful, the vessel appointed to tow the Constitution was the old Powhatan, a slow, paddle-wheel war steamer, herself in such condition that she also was condemned not long after this voyage. It was a case of the blind leading the blind. William H. Jacques, a well-known

and skillful officer, who is distinguished for his enterprise in the gun foundries at Bethlehem, was in command. A number of bright naval cadets accompanied him. When manned for a cruise in her palmy days the Constitution had carried fiftyfour guns and a crew of nearly 400 men; but now she was deprived of her batteries. and only a handful of jolly tars were necessary. Every man had his place assigned to him in the boats, and I was told, in case of an accident, not to wait, but to make at once for the boat in which I had a place assigned me.

It was about eight bells, or the hour of noon, when the word went around that all was ready. I climbed up the black sides of the famous frigate by the narrow ladder of cleats built into her planking, clinging to the man ropes, and for the first time stepped on the deck of the old Constitution. It was a proud moment in my

The boatswain's shrill whistle range through the ship; the hoarse steam whistle of the Powhatan tooted over the river: the officer of the deck looked over the side to see if all was clear; hawsers were cast off, and the vessels began to draw away from the wharves. The sun, which had been somewhat overcast, came out and shone brightly over the scene, and the Constitution was off on her last voy The progress of the ships was naturally

slow, and especial care was required amid the rushing mazes of Hell Gate; for the rocks which imparted such dangers to that hazardous passage had not yet been blast-ed. The night proved to be magnificent. Daylight found us passing out of the sound near Fisher's Island. But as we entered on the broad ocean we encountered a heavy swell, and a moaning wind from the southwest singing sadly in the shrouds foretold a change of weather and a coming storm. The glass also was falling. But as the gale would probably not blow before night, we kept on our course. In looking about the ship, there was shown a pair of bitts, or blocks of wood, to which hawsers or other large copes are made fast. These, pieces of the original Constitution, as she was when she went into her first battle. While all her lines and general inner plan remained unaltered, yet during the frequent repairs which she had undergone every part of her frame and planking had gradually been replaced, in some cases two or three times; but these bitts, being of sound oak, had been retained through every change, as a memorial of the original frame.

We passed safely through Vineyard sound, Martha's Vineyard, on our right, and the Elizabeth Islands-Naushawena and its companions-on our left, and headed toward Nantucket, famed for its whalrs and hardy mariners. If you will look on the map you will see that at the east end of Nantucket the land turns a sharp angle to the north, terminating in Great point. This angle forms a breakwater against easterly storms, and behind it vessels can lie in safety in any wind from northeast to southwest. It was decided to make for this sheltered bay, and there ride out the storm, which was coming on

It blew hard that night and all the next lay. About 11 a.m. a boat went up into Nantucket port with some of the cadets but I preferred to remain on board, grudging to lose a moment from the enjoyment of being on the old Constitution in her last

The End of Her Last Voyage. On the following day the wind appeared the theater and goes to church instead."



about to veer to the northwest. By looking on the map you will see that this would have changed Great point from a breakwater into a lee shore. To explain our position more clearly I will say that so long as the wind blew from the northeast around to the south the island protected the ships from the brunt of the big seas. But as soon as it should shift from south to northwest we should get the full force of the sea, as well as of the wind, and might be driven on shore-if it blew hard. In order to prevent this peril, which had been foreseen, the boatswain's lively whis-tle rang through the frigate, piping the crew to the windlass to get up the anchors; and the cheery squeak of the fife was soon heard encouraging the men as they worked at the windlass.
Then the old Powhatan towed the Con-

stitution over to Chatham Roads, at what is called the heel of Cape Cod, and there

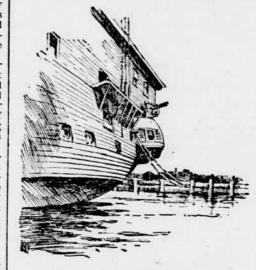


Gangway on Board the Constitution. we anchored. The wind blew very hard all night out of the northwest; but, as may be der the lee of the land, and lay as snug as possible, surrounded by a fleet of schoon-ers, which had also sought shelter under

By the next afternoon the weather had moderated, and it was thought best to make another attempt to reach Portsmouth. At that season the fine weather would not last long, and the stretch across Massachusetts bay, although not very long, was hazardous for a ship in the condition of the Constitution.

The fleet of schoorers made sail and put to sea when we did. The sun was setting with unusual splendor, attended by a troop of clouds hued in purple and gold. Like a triumphant escort the fleet danced lightly ever the sparkling waves around the frigate, their sails rosy in the sun's departing rays; they looked like a flock of sea fowl at play. The central object in this magnificent scene—the grand old frigate glided slowly and majestically toward her last home. It was a spectacle never surpassed in our naval annals, and never to be forgotten. It really seemed as if the old ship, instead of being a fabric of wood and iron was a here where the last control was a here where where the last control was a here where the last control was a here where where the last control was a here where we have the last control was a here where we have the last control was a last control

heavy swell from the late storm as we headed out toward the open sea; but, on the whole, everything promised a quiet



hight across the bay, and every heart on board bounded with exultation under influence of this inspiring scene. At that mement the Constitution rose on a higher swell than usual, then sank with quick but easy motion into the hollow of the sea, and with a fearfully sudden shock struck at the center of her keel on a shoal. She rose on the next wave, and, again descending, struck with even greater violence.

She Strikes on a Shoal.

For a moment everyone seemed paralyzed; the cook, who was as black as Egypt, sprang up the hatchway with eyes starting out of his head and a complexion several shades lighter than usual.

But I well remember that the first and chief thought that came to my mind at that moment was: "Has the old Constitution found her grave here at last?" The loud cry to try the pumps rang

through the ship. This being done, it was found that the leak had doubled; but as it did not increase beyond that degree, it was concluded that the old frigate was in no immediate danger, and would probably float until we could get her to Portsmouth, unless the weather should again become stormy. I am firmly of the opinion, which you may call a superstition, if you please, that if it had been any other ship than the ever lucky Constitution, this accident would have been the end of her. All night we glided slowly past the sand dunes of Cape Cod, the dull boom of the surf coming to us, borne on the land breeze. At sunrise we were off Cape Ann. The sky looked threatening and uncarny, and we counted the hours before we could see the old ship safe from the perils of the deep. She was now in a region where she had achieved one of her most famous exploits. In April, 1814, being under command of Capt Charies Stewart, and on the return from a long cruise, the Constitution fell in with two large English frigates. They gave chase, and, as she was overmatched, she was headed for Marblehead. With her usual resed beforementally that reached that part first. good hfortune, she reached that port first; while the enemy retired, baffled, from the pursuit when they saw the hardy fisher-men of Marblehead throwing up batteries at the harbor mouth.

Isles of Shoals, and soon after the Whaleback light house, guarding the mouth of the Piscataqua. Then proceeding up the narrow, winding channel, we anchored off the navy yard, Portsmouth. The Constitution was assigned a place with the old ships ranged in a line called Rotten Row. And there she still lies, the only one left of that venerable group of naval ers. In a few years more nothing will be left of the Constitution but a memory and a name. There is something very pathetic about the old hulk, moored by the wharf of the navy yard, entirely alone. A roof has been built over her to fit her for a re-ceiving ship, but it sadly disfigures her appearance. She cannot last long without repairs, repeated from time to time. And yet, as a matter of patriotism, she ought to be repaired and preserved, as nearly as possible, as she formerly looked. It would cost only a few thousand dollars. Do not the people of the United States, who owe so much of the national glory to her, owe it to themselves now to keep up the old

About noon we passed White Island light,

Proof Positive.



"But why do you think they are en-Because he has stopped taking her

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